

10 January 1967

Selected Data on Vietnam

Casualties in North Vietnam

1. The figures Admiral Taylor cited in the 9 January meeting on estimated casualties resulting from the bombings of North Vietnam are drawn from a series of studies prepared from time to time for Secretary McNamara, the latest of which is dated in December, 1966, and covers the missions of the first nine months, from 1 January to 30 September 1966. The figures for 1965, then, are for a full year while the figures for 1966 cover only the first three quarters.

2. These figures derive in part from careful analysis of bomb damage photography, but are backed up by hard evidence from a variety of sources,

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3. Based on these inputs, we estimate that in 1965, bombing missions resulted in about 13,200 casualties--roughly half fatalities, half injuries, and about 45 percent civilian as opposed to military.

4. In the first nine months of 1966, estimated casualties were 15,700, with the civilian proportion rising to about 75 percent: 3,800 military, 11,900 civilian. This estimate judges about 40 percent fatalities, 60 percent injuries. (The civilian and military casualty estimates cited in the 9 January question-and-answer session were rounded sub-totals, so that the total casualty figure quoted was somewhat smaller than the 15,700 given above.)

5. The 1966 survey attributes only about 1,100 of the 15,700 total to strikes against the JCS-fixed targets, with the remainder inflicted by the armed reconnaissance missions. It should be pointed out, however, that the great bulk of the bomb-load was dropped on other than the limited list of JCS targets.

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6. The term "civilian" should not be directly equated with women and children--most of the casualties under this heading were truck drivers, barge crews, or repair crews working on roads, bridges, ferries, rail lines, and the like. The casualty estimate works out roughly to about one casualty per mission.

Helicopters in North Vietnam

7. The North Vietnamese helicopter fleet at present comprises:

6	MI-6 HOOK, normal capacity 61 troops or 13,200 lbs. cargo.
20	MI-1 HARE or MI-4 HOUND. (The Hare normally lifts three passengers or 355 lbs. cargo; HOUND 11-16 troops, 2,640 lbs. cargo.)
26	Total

The helicopters are based at Gia Lam airfield, Hanoi, and Cat Bi airfield, Haiphong, and are used primarily on short-haul supply flights. The larger HOOK helicopters, which have been shipped in from the USSR as deck cargo, have recently been detected for the first time on presumed supply missions to the northwestern area of North Vietnam.

U.S. Air Losses over North Vietnam

8. U.S. losses of 501 aircraft to date are attributed as follows:

To enemy aircraft:	13
To surface-to-air missiles:	42
To anti-aircraft or other hostile action:	408
To non-enemy causes (mechanical, fuel, etc.)	38
	<u>501</u>

9. Personnel losses with these aircrafts are carried as 81 known dead, 361 missing, captured, or dead.

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10. Confirmed enemy main force combat strength in South Vietnam at present is:

61,652 in Viet Cong units
 44,910 in North Vietnamese Army units
 106,562 Main Force combat personnel

These form 178 combat battalions, the bulk of which are organized in 20 NVA and 13 Viet Cong regiments. Total armed manpower is carried as follows:

<u>MAIN FORCE</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>		<u>Unconfirmed</u>	
	<u>COMBAT</u>	<u>SUPPORT</u>	<u>COMBAT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Viet Cong	61,652	18,653	3,450	83,755
NVA	44,910	---	3,100	48,010
Subtotal	106,562	18,653	6,550	131,765
<u>PARAMILITARY</u>	112,760	39,175	16,400	168,335
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>219,322</u>	<u>57,828</u>	<u>22,950</u>	<u>300,100</u>

(The "paramilitary support" category covers the "armed political cadre" who run villages, collect taxes, etc., in areas controlled by the Viet Cong. They also carry out terrorism and harassment operations.)

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